

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 OMB-01 IO-11 PER-01

PPT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 /087 W

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O R 120825Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8059

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0307

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER, OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. FIGHTING CONTINUED THROUGHOUT WEEKEND WITH GREAT INTENSITY. ALL AMERICANS APPARENTLY CONTINUE TO BE SAFE BUT ACTING DCM HAD A BULLET ENTER HIS CAR AS HE LEFT THE OFFICE SATURDAY AND TWO OTHER EMBASSY CARS PARKED IN FRONT OF OFFICE WERE HIT BY SNIPER. MORTOR LANDED IN FRONT OF MOSQUE BETWEEN CHANCERY AND HOLIDAY INN, WOUNDING AT LEAST 15 PERSONS WHO WERE TREATED SATURDAY NIGHT AT AUB HOSPITAL. OVER WEEKEND AUBH TREATED MORE THAN 35 CASUALTIES. KIRKWOOD NOTED HIGH PROPORTION KILLED AGAINST WOUNDED, ATTRIBUTABLE TO LACK FRONT LINE FIRST AID, PLUS THE DELAY IN GETTING WOUNDED TO HOSPITAL.

2. NO INCIDENTS AT AUB, WHOSE CAMPUS REMAINS PEACEFUL.

3. FIGHTING OVER WEEKEND HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE LEBANON AND ESCALATED IN ZAHLE AREA, CONTINUED IN TRIPOLIE AREA AND APPEARED FOR FIRST TIME IN BROUMANA
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AND BEIT MERY. MORTARING OCCURRED BETWEEN ALEY AND

KAHALE. SIDON ROAD CUT AT DAMOUR WHERE FIGHTING OCCURRED. NOTWITHSTANDING FOREGOING, MAIN BATTLE IS STILL TEL SAATAR. YESTERDAY FRANGIE ORDERED ARMY TO TAKE FOOD AND MEDICINE INTO CAMP. CONVOY BEING ARRANGED BY LARGE NUMBER PALESTINIANS AND LEFTISTS. OFFICER IN CHARGE AND A FEW MEN SLIGHTLY WOUNDED AND VEHICLES WERE LOST. SUBSEQUENTLY, SOLDIERS AND VEHICLES WERE RETURNED BUT SOLDIERS WITHOUT THEIR INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE. OUR BEST GUESS, HOWEVER, IS THAT PALESTINIANS DEMAND FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO THEIR CAMP WITH THEIR OWN VEHICLES AND WILL NOT SETTLE FOR ARMY INTERVENTION; WHICH ALL ALONG HAS BEEN POSITION OF CHAMOUN AND RIGHTISTS. BY ALLOWING THE ARMY TO RESUPPLY PALESTINIANS THEY WOULD THUS BE ACCEPTING ARMY CONTROL OF THEIR AREAS.

4. FRANGIE MEETING WITH ASAD APPEARS MOST LIKELY THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS. WE CANNOT HELP BUT NOTE A RACE BETWEEN A MAJOR MILITARY BLOW-UP WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN PLA AND LEBANESE ARMY AND FRANGIE/ASAD PEACE EFFORTS. LET'S HOPE LATTER WINS.
GODLEY

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